

Alger Idea Is Drubbed By Center

WASHINGTON (UPI)—It does not, I'll admit, require any profligate amount of perspicacity to figure out that things have changed a lot since Horatio Alger and I were boys.

Yet this is the thought that kept slithering through my mind as I was touring the premises of a "career center" which was operating here last week in connection with meetings of the American Rocket Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Alger propounded the thesis, in such books as "Sink or Swim," that if a lad were cheerful, loyal, trustworthy, obedient, helpful, kind, diligent, clean, reverent and nice to old ladies, he would stand some chance of finding a job when he grew up.

I didn't exactly cut my teeth on the Alger books, but I did drink deeply of his philosophy. The stuff must have made me intoxicated, for I was a long time in reaching the sobering conclusion that he had it all wrong.

I finally reached it at the "Career Center" which is the antithesis of all that Alger taught me. The "Career Center" makes it plain that it is the job-giver, and not the job-seeker, who must be cheerful, loyal, trustworthy, obedient, helpful, kind, diligent, clean, reverent and nice to old ladies.

If any employer is all of these things, then he stands some chance of finding someone to work for him.

It is the sole function of the "Career Center," a sort of turn-about employment agency, to help employers recruit employees. Here is the way it works:

A group of companies chip in about \$1,000 apiece to set up a center in some city where some scientific or technical meeting is in progress. Scientists and engineers attending the meetings are invited to drop by the center and register.

Free transportation is provided and every effort is made to make them feel welcome. Some of their sign cards indicating they might be available for employment.

The cards are sent to the companies who then request interviews with the signers. The companies do not even know the names of the prospective employees. The whole thing is done by the numbers.

This protects the anonymity of the prospects and keeps them from being besieged with job offers outside the center. It is strictly up to them whether or not they grant an interview to the companies requesting it.

As I strolled about the center I saw a number of enticing signs like these: "Challenging opportunities for engineers . . . 150 immediate requirements . . . we need 300 engineers . . . creative career opportunities."



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Kennedy Kids Tucked Away Until January

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jacqueline Kennedy plans to keep her two children tucked away in this Florida resort until she and her husband move into the White House.

Now that she has her 15-day-old son, John F. Kennedy Jr., and 3-year-old daughter, Caroline, out of the Washington spotlight, she wants to keep it that way.

The children will stay here until after inauguration, according to Kennedy confidantes.

Mrs. Kennedy may be back in Washington before that, but not the youngsters, who have separate nurses.

The First-Lady-to-be has some dates in Washington — a Jan. 18 reception for prominent Democratic women and the inaugural ceremonies, including the inaugural ball.

For the trip from Washington, John Jr., bundled snugly in a white blanket, was carried aboard the president-elect's private plane by a new family nurse, gray-haired Elsie Phillips of Kensington, Md.

More than 200 steamship lines maintain offices in the port of San Francisco.

"I don't know WHAT I'm going to be when I grow up. They haven't invented it yet!"

Dr. Donnelly Heads Group

PORTLAND (AP) — Dr. John Donnelly of Roseburg is the new president of the Oregon Health Officers Conference. He was elected at the organization's annual meeting here Friday.

Serving with him are Dr. E. C. Young, Tillamook, vice president, and Dr. S. B. Osgood, Portland, secretary.

The conference heard a report from Dr. David Witter, director of dental health for the state Board of Health, said the best way to reduce Oregon's high tooth decay rate would be to increase the number of communities which

fluoridate their drinking water supplies.

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